

2015 VCE Spanish written examination report

General comments

Most students understood the requirements of the 2015 Spanish written examination and were well prepared. Some sections of the paper required a response in English and others a response in Spanish. It was very important that students answered in the correct language, as responses in the wrong language were considered incorrect and were not awarded marks. Students should read the questions thoroughly, follow the instructions carefully and make use of the space provided for taking notes. Students need to pay attention when questions require an answer in full sentences. Marks were awarded for sentence structure as well as language expression.

Advice for students

- Students should attempt all questions.
- Answer in the answer spaces provided.
- The meaning of the response should be conveyed accurately.

Specific information

Note: Student responses reproduced in this report have not been corrected for grammar, spelling or factual information.

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

Section 1 – Listening and responding Part A – Answer in English

Most students answered the questions in this section correctly. Students are advised to listen carefully and to take notes during both playings of the text as this will assist them in completing their answers.

Text 1

Question 1a.

The purpose of this announcement is to let passengers know about the flight cancellation.

The announcement takes place in the (Lima) airport.

Question 1b.

The need for this announcement is: to explain the reason for the cancellation, which was the bad weather conditions/storms in Lima and its surroundings

Question 1c.

With children	No children
Go to counter 15.	Go to counter 17.
They will receive a room in the closest hotel to the airport.	They will stay in hotels in the centre of the city.

Question 1d.

- People who do not need accommodation will receive a discount voucher for subsequent flights with the airline.
- The airline will be in contact with them early in the morning.

Text 2

Question 2a.

The challenges that Mario and Sole have in common are:

- how to occupy their children during the holidays/the children want to do something entertaining and different
- they need to plan different activities for each day.

Question 2b.

Three options suggested by Sole are:

- an entertaining theatre play/theatre production/show/performance
- a play about the history of Latin America at the Pre-Columbian Indigenous Museum
- the children's festival (in Palermo).

Part B – Answer in Spanish

Text 3

Question 3a.

The two versions of the origin of graffiti, according to Georgina, are:

- an official version that says that graffiti was born in New York and Philadelphia
- an unofficial version that says that graffiti originated earlier, with Latino groups in Los Angeles who painted the walls of their neighbourhood.

Las dos versiones sobre el origen del grafiti según Georgina son:

- *una versión oficial que dice que comenzó en los años 60 en el Metro de Nueva York y en las paredes de Filadelfia*
- *una extraoficial que dice que comenzó mucho antes con los grupos de Latinos en Los Angeles que pintaban las paredes de sus barrios.*

Question 3b.

Georgina's art was influenced by:

- tattoos
- Japanese art
- comics
- urban art.

She is a special artist in the world of street art because she broke through the barriers of the street art world, which is dominated by male artists even though there are many talented women.

El arte de Georgina estuvo influenciado por:

- *el tatuaje*
- *el arte japonés*
- *el comic*
- *el arte urbano.*

Ella es una artista especial en el mundo del arte callejero porque ella atravesó las barreras del mundo del arte callejero, el cual está dominado por artistas masculinos a pesar de que hay muchas mujeres con talento.

Question 3c.

Georgina’s relationship with the world of cinema and her previous work was that she took part in the creative production of Guillermo del Toro’s films, she produced murals for his films and she designed costumes as well. Earlier on, she was a textile and prints designer and she also worked in advertising.

La relación de Georgina con el mundo del cine y sus trabajos anteriores fueron:

- *Participó en el equipo creativo de las películas de Guillermo del Toro en donde elaboró murales para varias de sus películas y además diseñó el vestuario. Anteriormente, ella había trabajado en estampados y en diseño textil así como también en el área del diseño publicitario.*

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 4

Question 4a.

The two comments from the stranger that led to the woman being so fascinated were:

- the stranger can actually make soup by using a stone/the stranger said he had a stone (in his knapsack) with which soup could be made
- the stranger indicated that if he could put the stone in the pot of boiling water he would make the best soup in the world/the stranger indicated that he could make the best soup in the world using a stone.

Question 4b.

Steps taken	Ingredients
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the fire. • Boil the water in a pot. • Put the rock in the pot. • Ask the villagers for ingredients. • Add the rest of the ingredients. • Taste the soup. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water • the rock or stone • a few potatoes • some vegetables • salt • meat

Question 4c.

Evidence that shows that the stranger was very clever is:

- he pretended that he had a magic stone
- he used cunning/stealth and persuasive techniques. For example, by testing the soup when it only consisted of water and the stone and then exclaiming, 'It tastes delicious' and 'It would be even better with a bit of meat'. He was manipulating the villagers by using this enthusiastic language
- he was able to spark an element of curiosity among the villagers, who believed him and got excited and brought extra food such as bread and fruit. He was clever enough to trick them, and they believed and trusted him.

Question 4d.

- When we give a little and share it, we can achieve a lot.
- By sharing, we can all benefit.
- This story shows how much people can achieve when they pool their resources and work together.
- If something sounds too good to be true, it generally is. You will eventually end up having to pay in some way.

The following is an example of a high-scoring response.

When people share and work together they can achieve great things. Since the whole town worked towards a single goal they enjoyed a delightful shared meal as a reward.

Part B – Answer in Spanish

Text 5

The answers in this section should have been in Spanish and in full sentences. Students needed to demonstrate the capacity to understand general and specific aspects of the text and convey information accurately and appropriately.

Question 5

Claudia writes a brief message to her friend, Luisa, about her plans. The following is a possible response.

Hola Luisa, te cuento que estoy planeando un viaje a Granada. Me han aconsejado dos amigos, Pedro y Camila. Pedro me recomendó que fuera en invierno y me habló de la parte artística, histórica y arquitectónica de la Alhambra, parece fascinante apreciar la maravillosa arquitectura musulmana y ver el arte que ha inspirado a tantos creadores. También me sugirieron los deportes de nieve en la Sierra Nevada. En el verano podría hacer senderismo o montar a caballo en los parques naturales, como me sugirió Camila. He decidido tomar el consejo de Pedro y voy a ir en invierno para disfrutar del arte y la música. Además, puedo aprovechar para esquiar, tu bien sabes cómo me apasiona la nieve. Quizás mi próximo viaje lo haré en verano y así podré recorrer los pueblos alpujarreños.

Bueno Luisa, espero verte y contarte mis aventuras en Granada cuando regrese.

Besos,

Claudia

Section 3 – Writing in Spanish

Students were required to answer one question in 200–300 words in Spanish.

In preparation for this section, it is highly recommended that students practise writing in different styles and they should learn to fulfil the demands of the writing tasks.

Overall, there were many high-scoring responses in this section but some students failed to score well due to little organisation of structuring and sequencing of information and ideas.

It is important that students read authentic texts in Spanish, such as novels, short stories, magazines and newspaper articles. Reading widely is a good way to improve reading and writing skills.

Question 6

Students were asked to write a formal letter to Mr Delgado, who is quite elderly. Mr Delgado is always saying that society has changed a lot and that the behaviour of young people today is worse than ever before.

This piece of personal writing should have been in the form of a formal letter and should have included:

- informative content and language referring to how society has changed
- three or four personal opinions
- possibly a couple of examples of behaviour
- comparison of three or four positive and negative points.

Only a few students chose this question. It is recommended that students pay further attention to the conventions of a formal letter, as well as using *usted* (the formal form of 'you'), and not *tu*, when addressing an elderly person.

Question 7

Students were asked to write a school magazine article explaining the importance of the protection of animals.

This piece of persuasive writing should have included:

- examples of the maltreatment of animals, the protection of animals and the consequences
- information about how people can get involved and help out
- a discussion of three or four well-developed ideas.

Question 8

Students were asked to write a newspaper article and discuss what young people have to do to successfully enter the workforce.

This piece of informative writing should have included:

- introduction, middle and conclusion
- informative content and language
- three or four positive suggestions/ideas/advice for entering the workforce.

A few students chose this question. It is recommended that students should practise writing informative articles.

Question 9

Students were asked to write an email to a friend explaining the advantages and disadvantages of deciding not to go to university.

This piece of evaluative writing should have included:

- some negatives and positives of the decision
- some consequences of the decision
- the personal opinion of the writer.

This question was a popular choice. Some students produced excellent pieces of writing, such as the following:

Para: chelcquinn@gmail.com

De: gab.von@gmail.com

Asunto: Por que creo que deberías ir a la Universidad.

17 noviembre, 2015

Querida Chelsea,

¿Cómo has estado? Te voy a ser sincera, la razón por la cual te estoy escribiendo este correo es porque tu mamá me ha llamado para decirme que no quieres ir a la universidad cuando termines el colegio el próximo año. Me ha pedido que hable contigo acerca de las ventajas de ir a la universidad.

Primero, yo sé cómo piensas acerca de las desventajas de ir a la universidad, claro no vas a tener tanto tiempo libre y vas a estar estresada todo el tiempo. Déjame decirte que esto no tiene por qué ser así. La primera ventaja y la que yo creo que motiva más a la gente, cuando va a la universidad, es la de conseguir un trabajo bien pago y no terminar trabajando en Mc Donalds. Pero dejemos la plata a un lado, que si bien es una ventaja, no creo que sea la razón para decidir si estudias o no.

El solo hecho de aprender algo que te guste, algo que te apasione es una de las mayores ventajas, si no la mayor ventaja de estudiar a nivel universitario.

Estudiar en la universidad te da mil y una opciones de carreras para estudiar, así que no te puedes quejar que una clase no te guste, como lo hacemos en el colegio. El estudio universitario también profundiza en el tema que te guste.

En mi opinión, el aprender algo que uno ame y que lo inspire da un motivo y un propósito para vivir. También creo que estudiar puede hacerte la vida feliz y armoniosa. Este conocimiento que adquieres te da un impulso, en otras palabras, no deja que te pierdas en el camino de la vida porque es algo que amas. Te da la energía para despertarte todas las mañanas con ganas de vivir.

Espero que estas palabras te ayuden,

Con cariño, Gabriela

Question 10

Students were asked to write a story based on an old photograph of a family sitting in front of a cabin in a forest.

This piece of imaginative writing should have included:

- reference to the context
- development of the story
- three or four well-developed ideas.

Some students did not provide a structured piece of imaginative writing with a well-developed situation, complication, resolution and conclusion.